721 asleep. Both men and dogs sleep under cover in order to protect themselves against the dew and chill. An attack launched at this time is called *bejât* and is dishonorable, as the surprised enemy cannot defend himself.

726 The order to attack is given by the leader with the words: "Gain success, O ye looters! *efleḥû jâ ṛânimîn*," and by a gesture of his hand to the cavalry to advance. For their part they shout: "O Allâh, by Allâh himself!" or: "O Allâh, thy will be done! *jâ-llâh 'ala bâbak*," and throw themselves on the herds without paying attention to the herdsmen. Every one tries to reach an animal with his spear, calling at the same time on his comrades to witness that it was he who captured it; he then drives it before him to a second and third, which he also makes his own. A long spear is very useful in this kind of work. Sometimes they succeed in surrounding and capturing all the herds, but usually some of the camels shy and gallop away madly. These animals can never be overtaken by the attackers unless they run towards their last quarters, for frightened camels will not stop until quite exhausted.

704 The captured herds are driven by the cavalry to the
725 leader, who waits for them with the camel riders. There the cavalry divides. One half, armed with spears, drives the booty to the last quarters, the other, armed with revolvers, pistols, and rifles conceals itself in some suitable spot between the leader and the camp of the enemy. These hidden warriors are called *čemîn*, the reserve.

Both the reserve and the leader with the camel riders, *ṣâbûr*, wait for the counter attack, *faz'a*, which the enemy usually makes in order to rescue the captured animals and to drive the raiders back. The task of the camel riders, *ṣâbûr*, consists in opposing the sortie, and in this they are supported by the reserve in their rear. If the sortie is beaten back and the enemy dispersed, the *ṣâbûr* fall on the camp, taking all the tents there with everything in them.

721 However, it is only on rare occasions that the enemy
704 can be taken wholly by surprise, because the chief of every
726 camp follows the rule of sending out riders on camels, called *fulâ'*, to observe the country on all sides. They usually start before sunrise, ascend the highest hillocks, survey the neighborhood in all directions, and do not return till after sunset.

2:Musil S-4, 5 (no date) 1928 MD4 Rwala MD4



539 For the eyes of her who draws apart the tent wall and peeps out
Thirsting and longing for one of our glances,
Our custom is to rescue the captured herds,
And our task is to bring in mares whose riders we have hurled down.

[727] When, after repelling the attack, the warriors return with their booty to their tents, they are inspected by the women and girls from the tents. Being themselves invisible, the latter look through the small space between the tent wall and roof. This wall or tent side is called *aḏ-ḏera*. *"Ḏerrûna ʿan ha-l-bard*, hang up the wall to protect us from the cold." *Awâḳ* means to examine something thoroughly. The chief orders the *sbûr*, scouts on camels: *"Ewîžû ʿala ha-l-ḳowm*, examine this detachment of the enemy well." On their return they will report: *"Awaḳna ʿalejhom*, we have looked them over," and give a detailed report. With the same thoroughness will a maiden examine her lover when he returns from a raid, anxious to know if and what booty he brings. *Wsîž* is the same as *aḥîḏ*, i. e. a herd, *ṭarš*, captured from the enemy. *Ḳalâjeʿ* are the mares of the foes thrown from the saddle.

*Mamdûḥ w-allâh mâ narûḥ*
*nahûš ʿenda dijârana*
*laʿujûn min ḳarnha jelûḥ*
*ḍabḥ as-swâri ḳârana.*

O Mamdûḥ, by Allâh! we shall not depart,
But harass you from our lands instead,
For the eyes of her whose plait is appearing —
For the killing of troopers is our sport.

Mamdûḥ Pasha was the commander of the Turkish troops fighting the Druses in the Ḥawrân. When defeated he asked the Rwala for help, but this they refused and, instead, composed this poem. [721] *Nahûš* means guerilla warfare, in which small regular detachments and frontier guards are attacked. [725] The regular cavalry sent by Mamdûḥ against the Rwala were beaten by them because their horses could stand the heat and thirst much better than the army horses. They awaited the soldiers in ambush, surrounded, and killed them. *Ḳâr* means hunting by lying in wait or catching the game in snares.